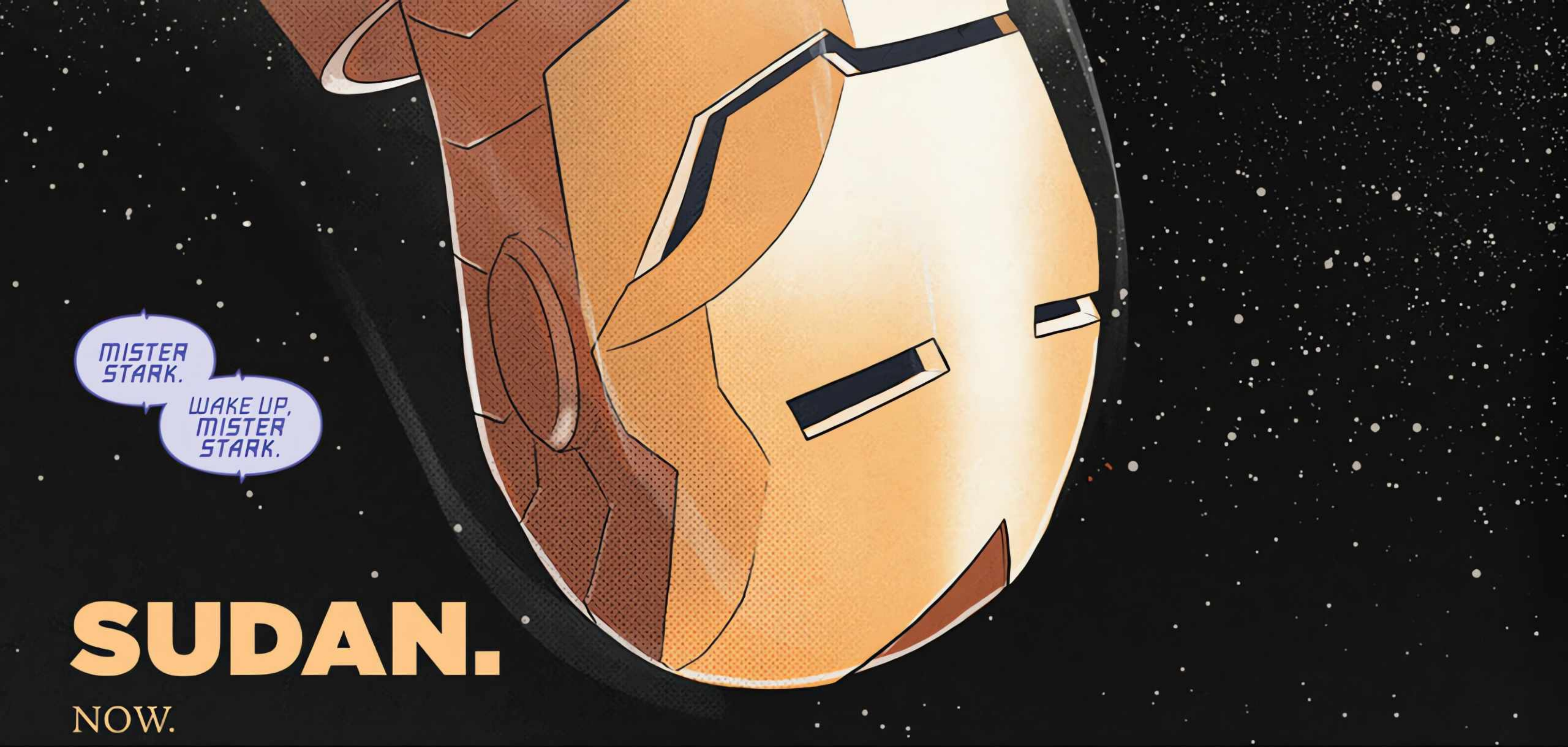


I AM...
IRON MAN

MARVEL 5

AYODELE • AKANDE





MISTER STARK.
WAKE UP, MISTER STARK.

SUDAN.

NOW.



CONSCIOUSNESS-BACKUP SYSTEM IS OFFLINE.

DEADLY IMPACT IS IMMINENT...

...AND FOREIGN THREAT REMAINS ON THE MOVE.

YOU NEED TO WAKE UP, MISTER STARK.

YOU NEED TO WAKE UP, OR YOU WILL--

...
...
...



ELECTRICAL DEFIBRILLATION IN PROGRESS.

SENDING TWO HUNDRED JOULES OF ELECTRICITY THROUGH YOUR HEART...



...NOW.

KEZZT



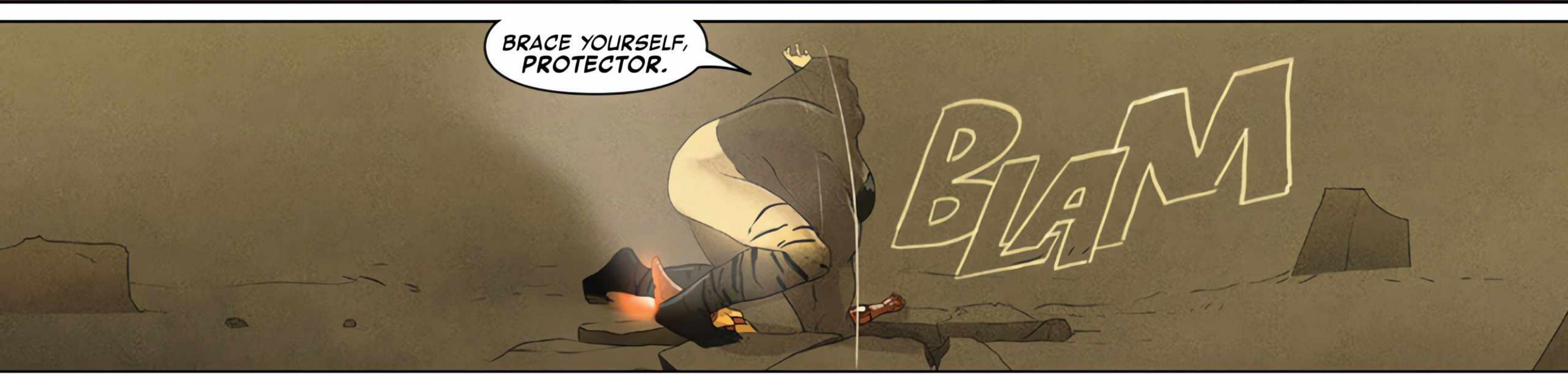
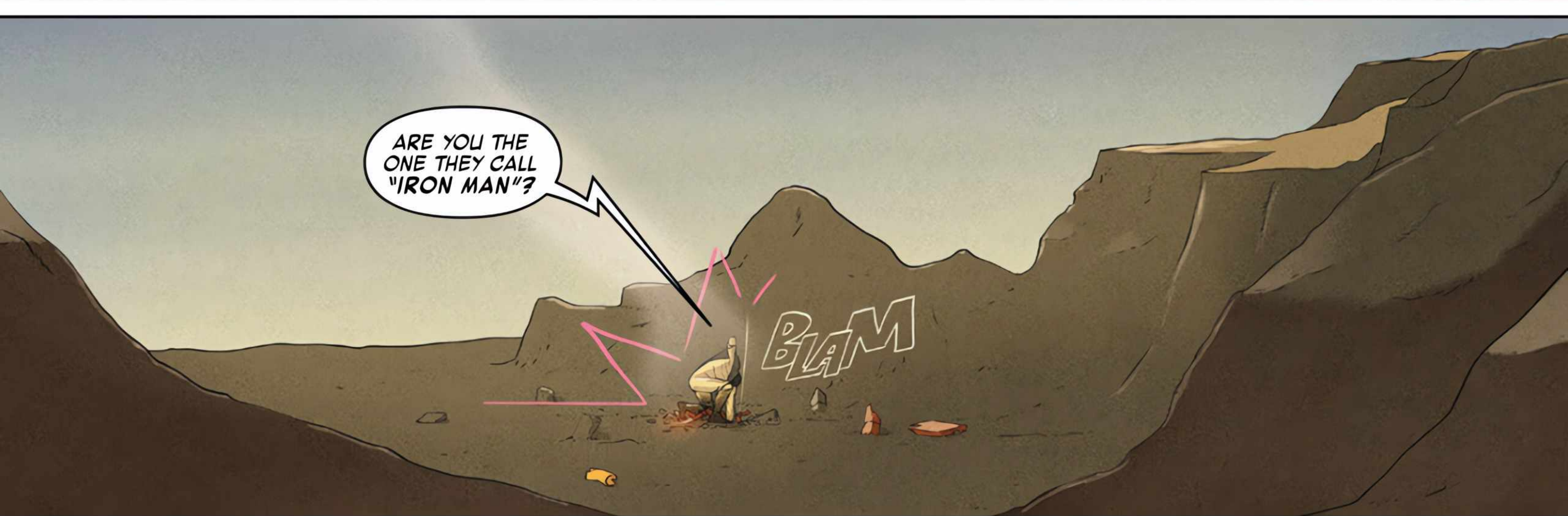
YOU'RE AWAKE.

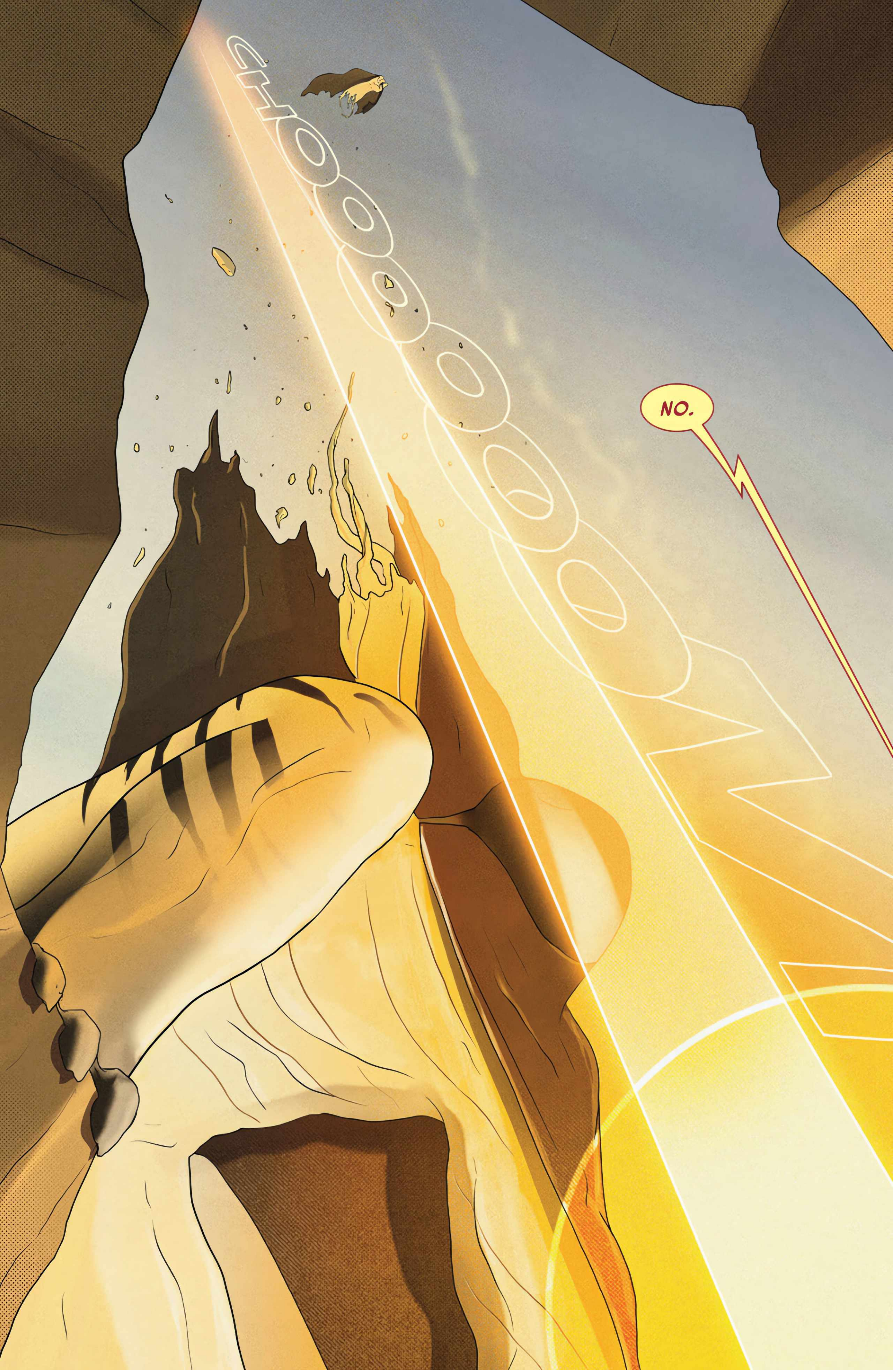
K.A.T.I.E., SWITCH REPULSOR LEVEL TO "LETHAL." STAT.

THUD

THUD

THUD





Tony Stark is known as many things: billionaire playboy, genius inventor, futurist, hero, human. But when he dons his high-tech armor, he becomes the Mighty Avenger known as Iron Man. Watch him announce this truth. Watch him declare...

I AM... **IRON MAN**

CHAPTER FIVE: THE REAL IRON MAN

MUREWA AYODELE
WRITER

DOTUN AKANDE
ARTIST

DOTUN AKANDE
COVER ARTIST

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
LETTERER

GABRIEL MATA
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

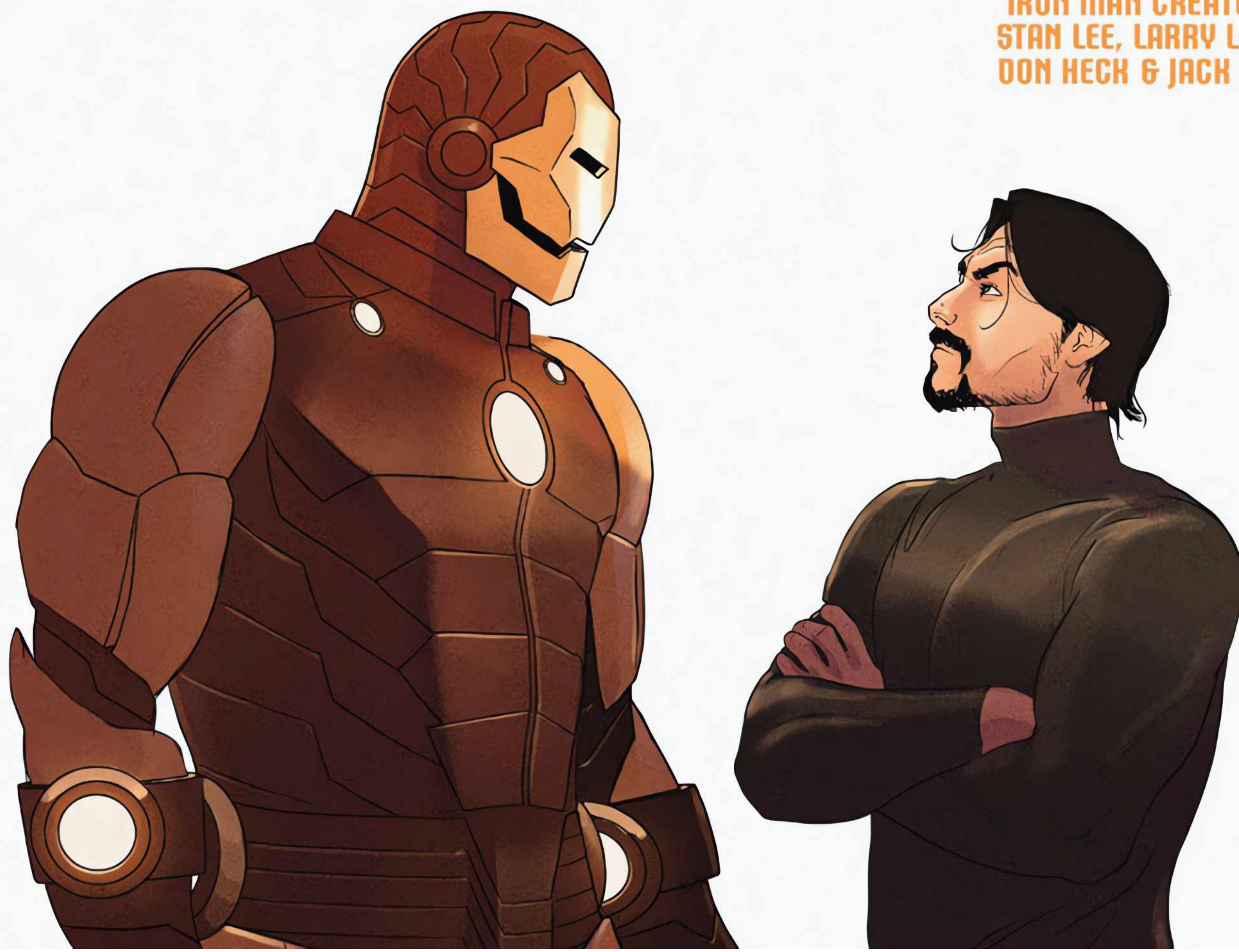
MARTIN BIRO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

ANNALISE BISSA
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

G.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

IRON MAN CREATED BY
STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER,
DON HECK & JACK KIRBY



THE CUBE.

(CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR
SUPERHUMAN CRIMINALS.)
THREE MONTHS AGO.

THERE'S NO
DOUBT ABOUT
IT, *MISTER
STARK.*

YOU'RE
GOING TO
DIE.

YOUR
ARMOR IS MADE
OF *METAL*,
NO?

*SOME
PARTS OF
IT ARE.*

THEN YOUR
DEATH IS
CERTAIN.

YOU ARE
SCISSORS.
*SHE IS
ROCK.*

BUT
ORDERS ARE
ORDERS.

I WILL
TAKE YOU TO
SEE *HER*.

...

YOU HOST A LOT OF
TACO TUESDAYS,
GEORGE?

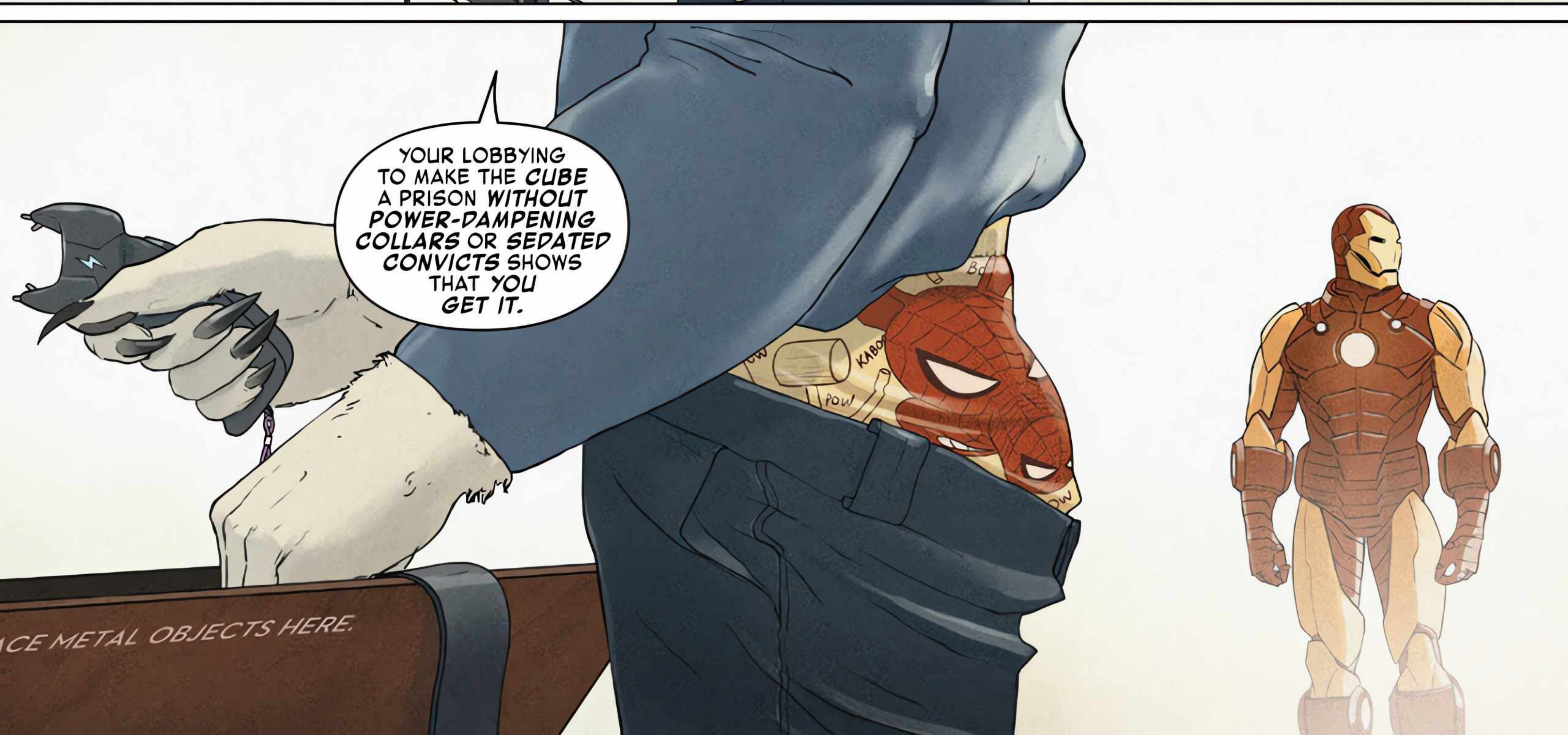
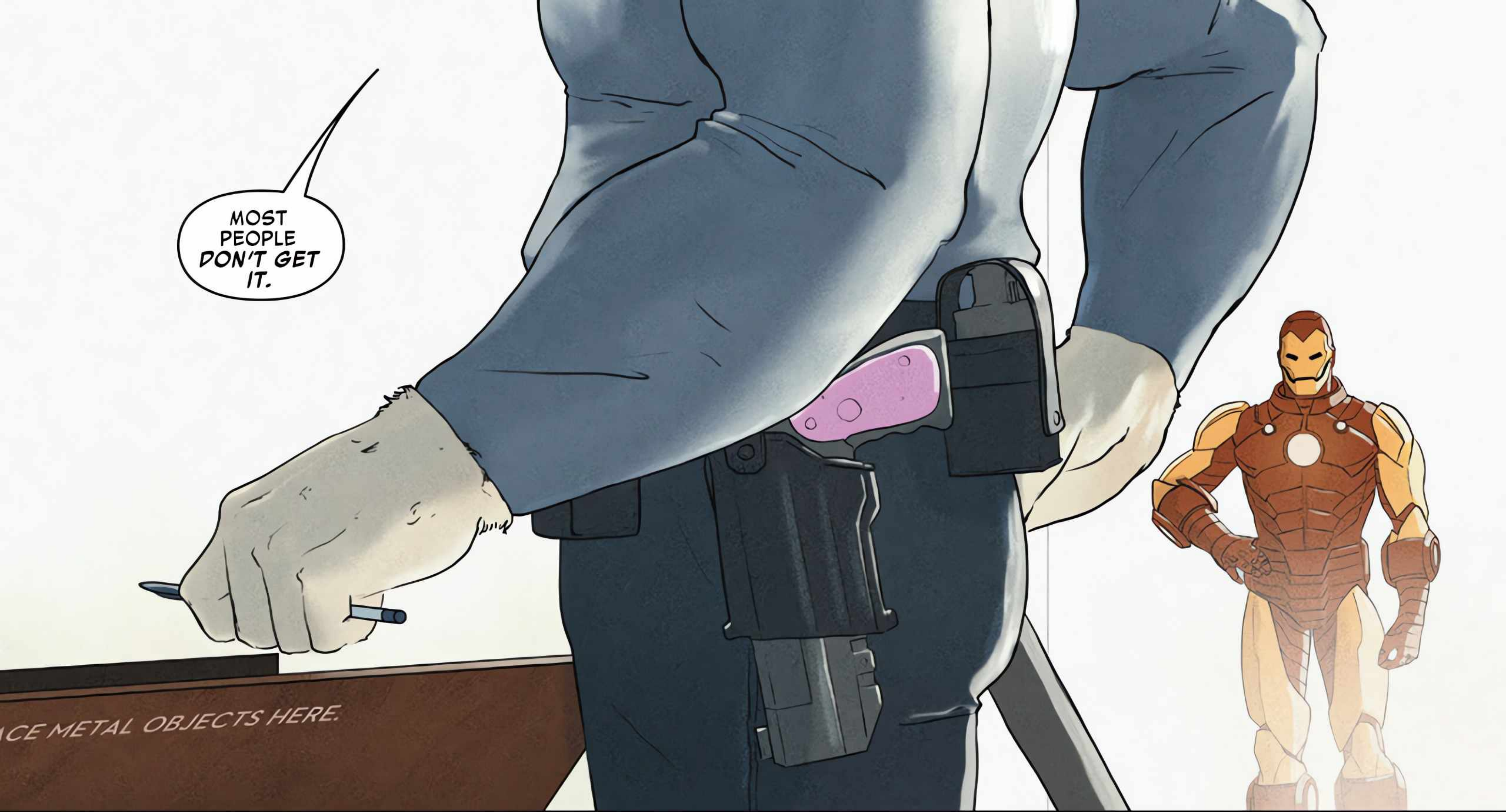
NO.

BUT EVERY
WEDNESDAY
IS *WORKOUT
WEDNESDAY*.

YOUR GUYS
MUST REALLY
LOVE THEIR
WORKOUTS.

IT IS
NOT ME THEY
SALUTE, *MISTER
STARK.*

YOU
ARE A *BIG
CELEBRITY*
HERE.



TIE

DO I STILL
GET THE AVENGER
OF THE YEAR AWARD
IF I SAY I'VE HAD THAT
PLAN FOR MONTHS NOW,
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER
PULLING THE TRIGGER
ON IT?

YOU ARE
A BUSY MAN.
AND YOUR--

PULL

WAIT!
WHAT'S
THE Mallet
FOR?

CHUCKLES

I BELIEVE IN BASIC
SUPERHUMAN RIGHTS, BUT *SHE*
IS STILL A *DIRTY CRIMINAL* WHO
TRIED TO KILL *SPIDER-MAN* AND
SENT TWO OF MY BEST PEOPLE
TO HOSPITAL.

WRONG
MOVE?

I
CLOBBER.

...

I KID.
I KID.

CLOWNS.
BIG SHOES,
YES?

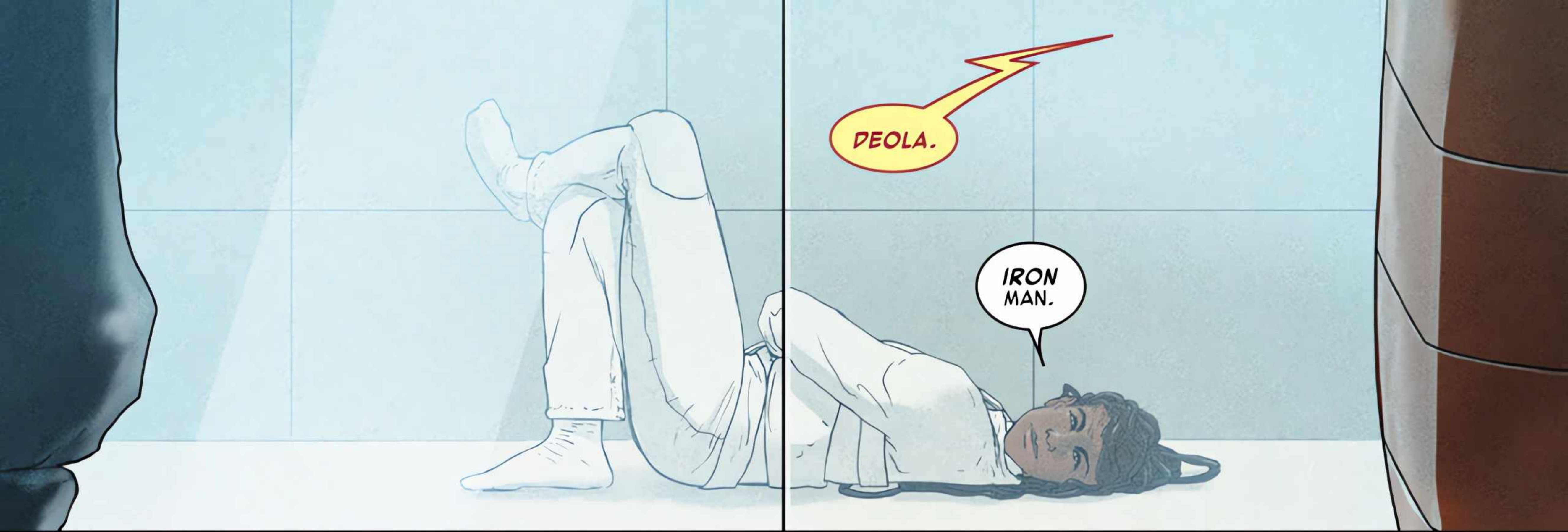
ME? BIG
HAMMER.

SHE LAUGHS.
I LAUGH. WE ALL
LAUGH.

BETTER
TO CARRY
Mallet.

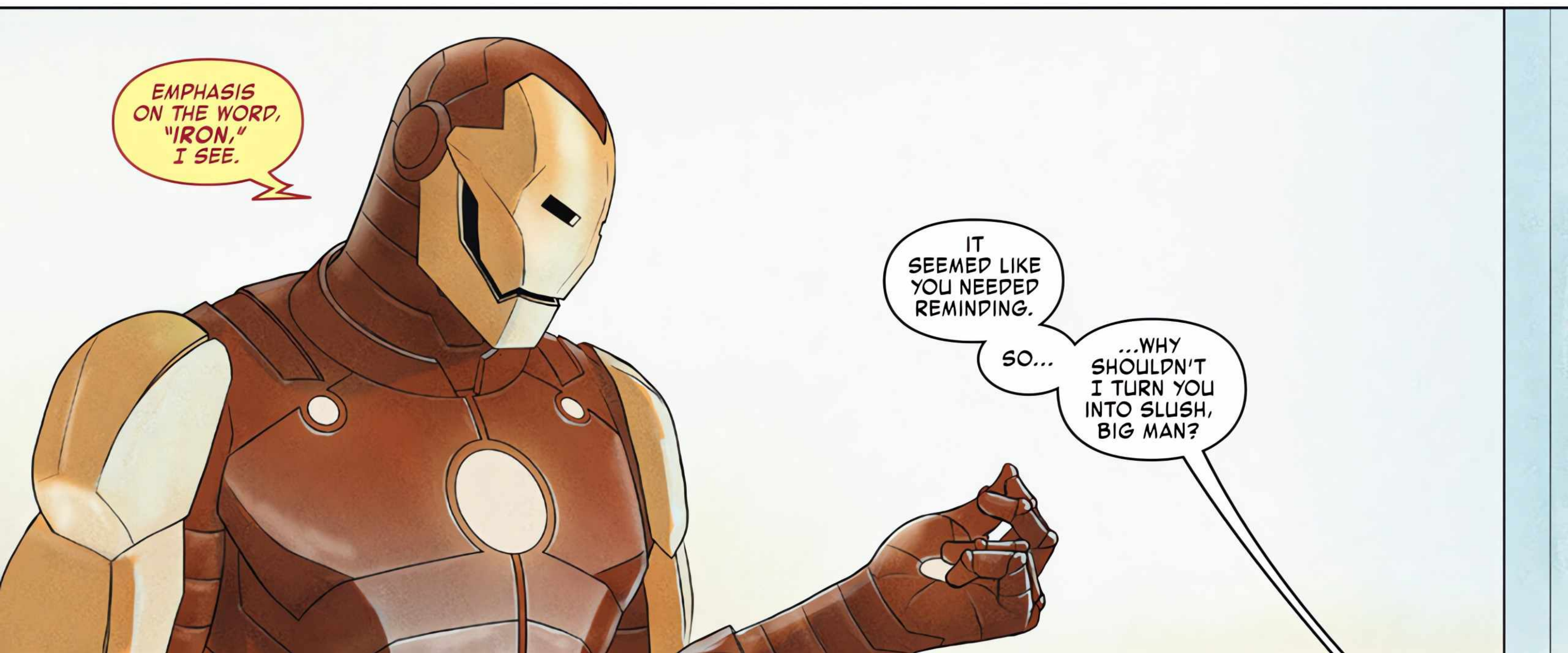
SAY
YOUR PRAYERS
NOW, *MISTER
STARK.*

WE
ARE CLOSE
TO WHERE
SHE'S BEING
KEPT.



PEOLA.

IRON
MAN.



EMPHASIS
ON THE WORD,
"IRON,"
I SEE.

IT
SEEMED LIKE
YOU NEEDED
REMINDING.

SO...

...WHY
SHOULDN'T
I TURN YOU
INTO SLUSH,
BIG MAN?



YOU'RE THE **SECOND-BEST** MECHANIC I
KNOW, AND YOU WANT TO PUT THAT ABILITY
OF YOURS TO GOOD USE OUTSIDE OF
PRISON. HECK, YOU'D LOVE TO DO ANYTHING
OUTSIDE OF PRISON. BUT YOU'D DEFINITELY
KILL TO WORK WITH THE **BEST**
MECHANIC YOU KNOW.

I'M THE
BEST MECHANIC
I KNOW.

SURE.

AND YES,
I PAY...

...REALLY
WELL.



I'M HEARING
A LOT ABOUT
WHY I NEED
YOU...

...NOT A
LOT ABOUT
WHY YOU
NEED ME.

I'M TONY
STARK.

WHY
DO YOU
THINK?



WE'RE
BUILDING
A **BIG**
WEAPON.



BY THE WAY, HOW'S THE FOOD HERE?

"HOW'S THE FOOD HERE?"

WHAT SORT OF QUESTION IS THAT?

DUDE, IT'S **PRISON FOOD**.

WOW! GREAT CONTEXT FOR SOMEONE WHO'S...

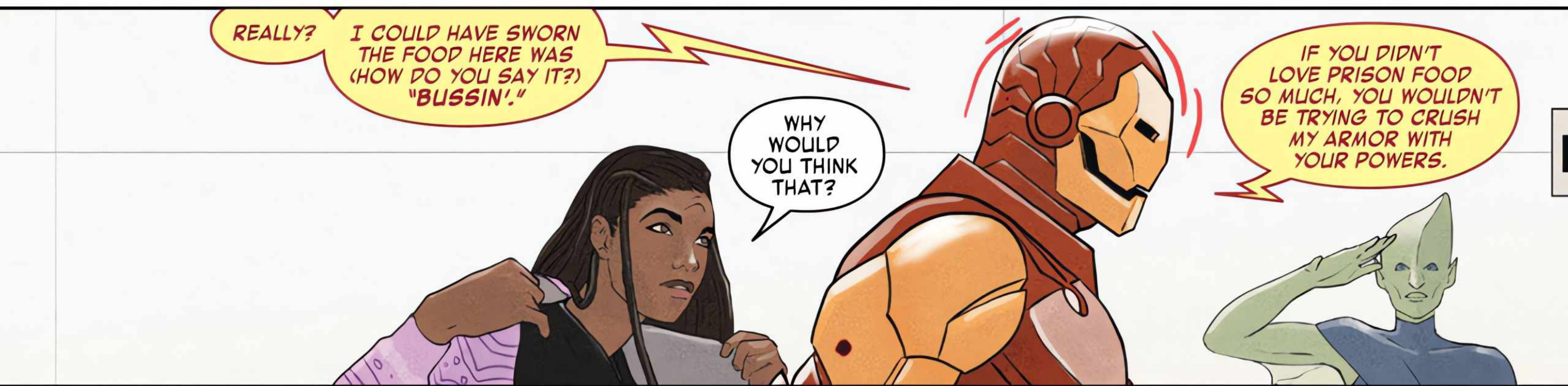


...NEVER BEEN IN PRISON!

HEY! KEEP IT IN YOUR IRON PANTS.

MANY HEROES HAVE BEEN IN PRISON BEFORE. YOU'VE THROWN SOME IN YOURSELF.

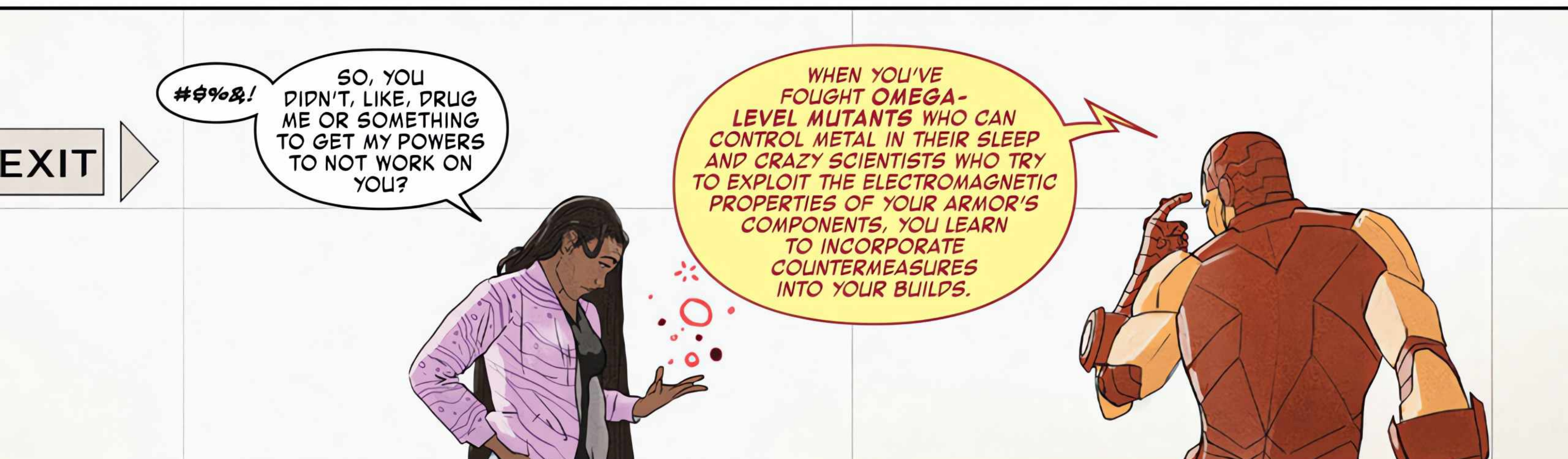
AND I'M PRETTY SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT PRISON FOOD SUCKS.



REALLY? I COULD HAVE SWORN THE FOOD HERE WAS (HOW DO YOU SAY IT?) "BUSSIN'."

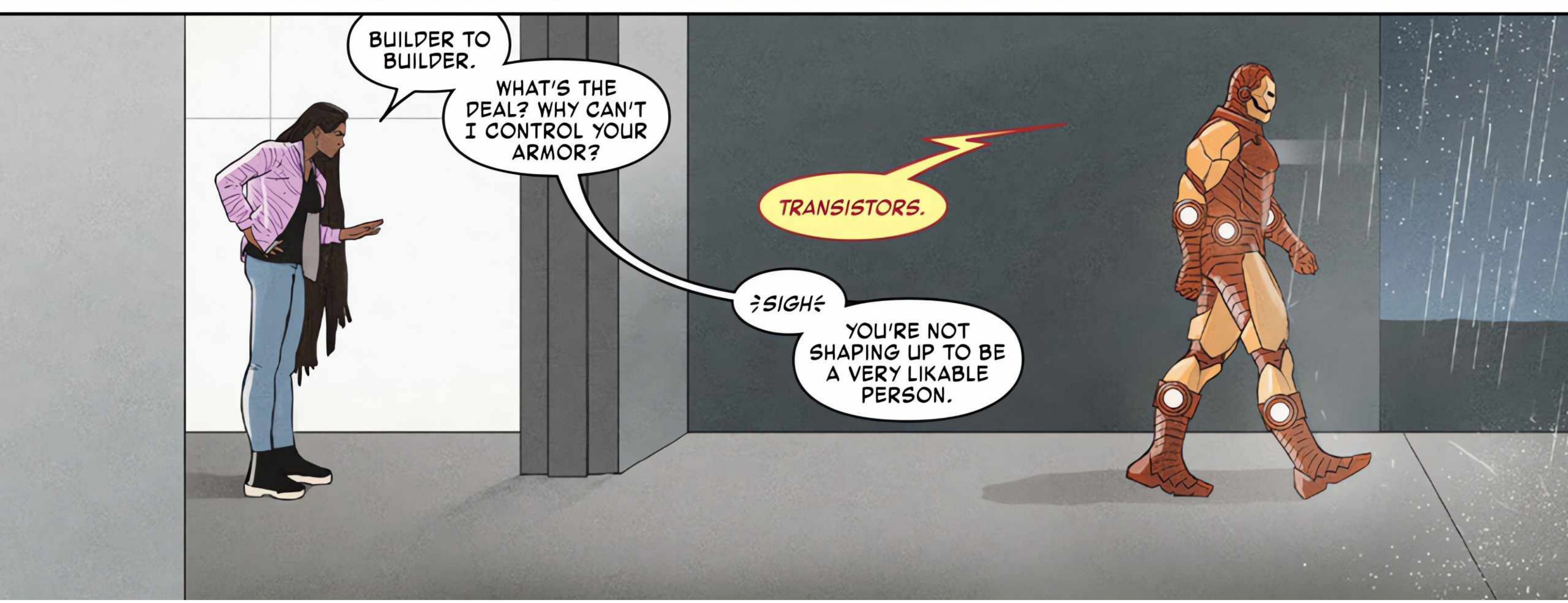
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?

IF YOU DIDN'T LOVE PRISON FOOD SO MUCH, YOU WOULDN'T BE TRYING TO CRUSH MY ARMOR WITH YOUR POWERS.



SO, YOU DIDN'T, LIKE, DRUG ME OR SOMETHING TO GET MY POWERS TO NOT WORK ON YOU?

WHEN YOU'VE FOUGHT OMEGA-LEVEL MUTANTS WHO CAN CONTROL METAL IN THEIR SLEEP AND CRAZY SCIENTISTS WHO TRY TO EXPLOIT THE ELECTROMAGNETIC PROPERTIES OF YOUR ARMOR'S COMPONENTS, YOU LEARN TO INCORPORATE COUNTERMEASURES INTO YOUR BUILDS.



BUILDER TO BUILDER.

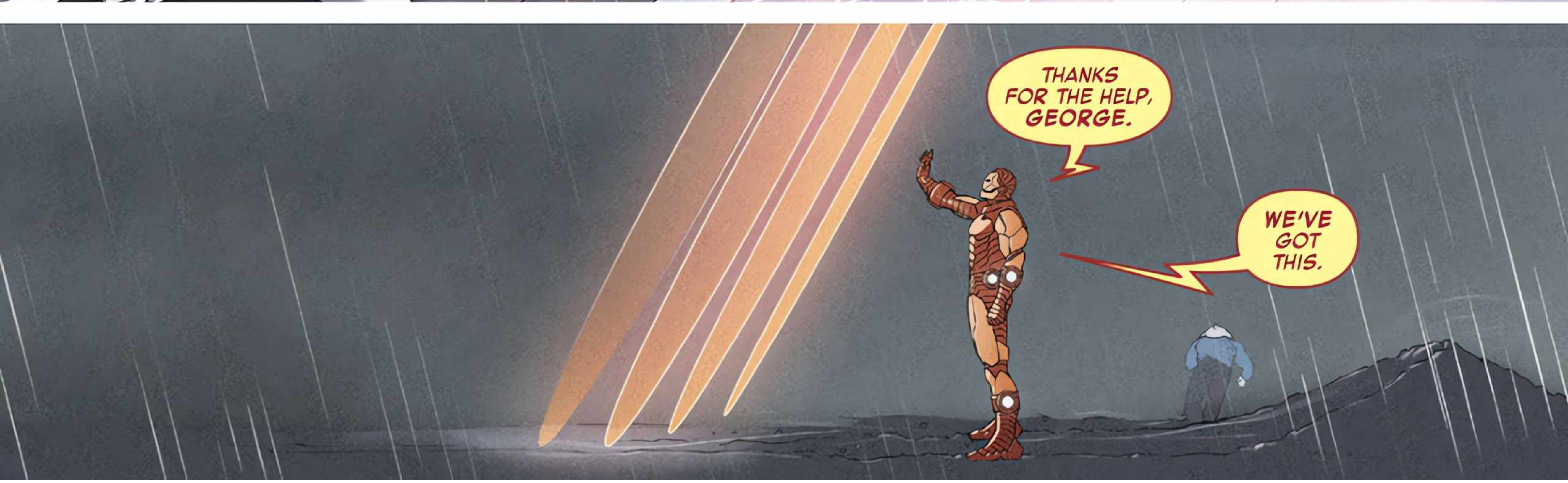
WHAT'S THE DEAL? WHY CAN'T I CONTROL YOUR ARMOR?

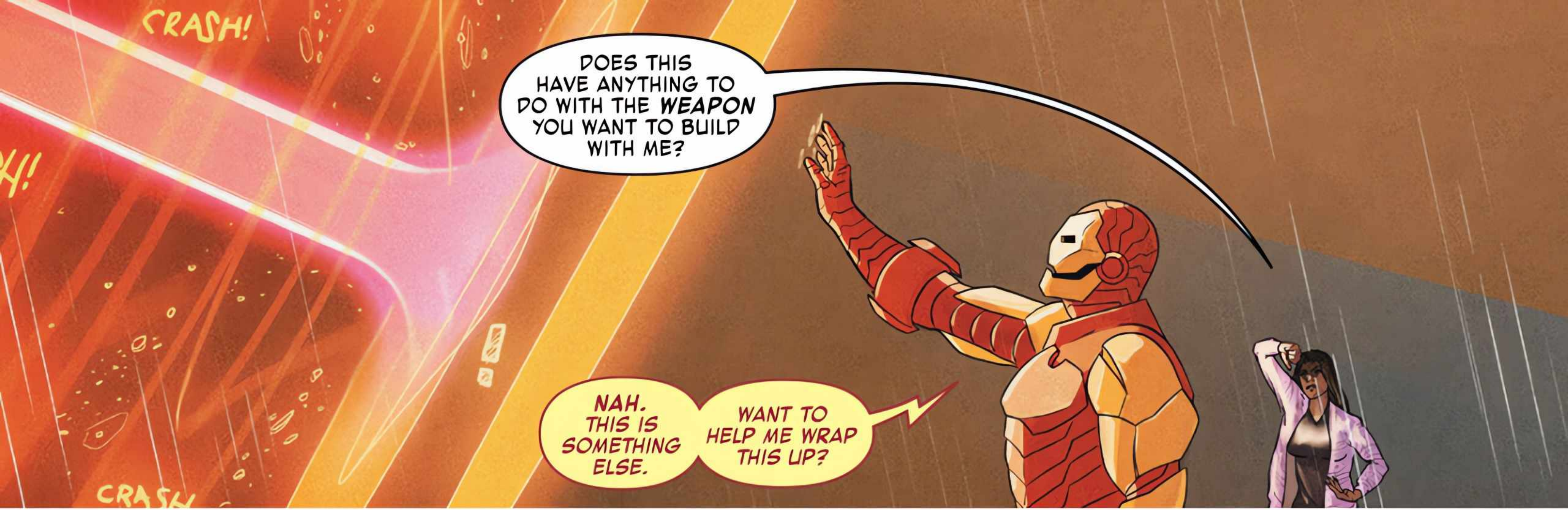
TRANSISTORS.

~SIGH~

YOU'RE NOT SHAPING UP TO BE A VERY LIKABLE PERSON.



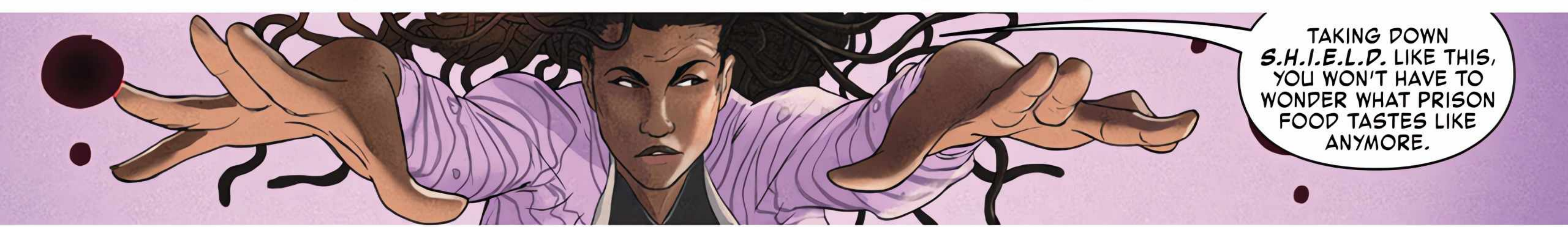




DOES THIS
HAVE ANYTHING TO
DO WITH THE **WEAPON**
YOU WANT TO BUILD
WITH ME?

NAH.
THIS IS
SOMETHING
ELSE.

WANT TO
HELP ME WRAP
THIS UP?



TAKING DOWN
S.H.I.E.L.D. LIKE THIS,
YOU WON'T HAVE TO
WONDER WHAT PRISON
FOOD TASTES LIKE
ANYMORE.



TRY
NOT TO HURT
ANYONE.

BUT
DON'T HOLD
BACK.

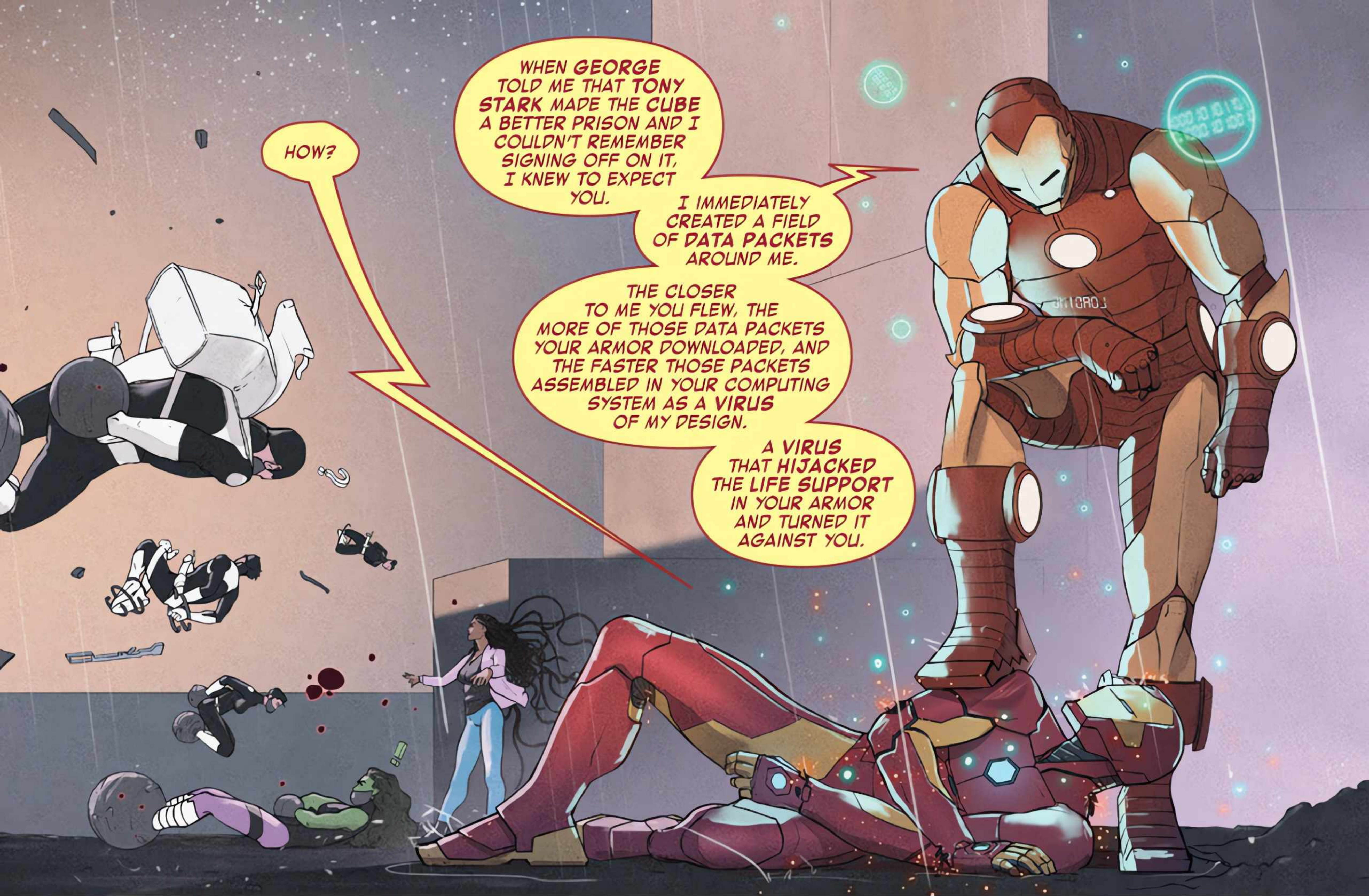


THEIR **SECRET**
WEAPON IS STILL
ACTIVE...



...AND
ON ITS
WAY.





HOW?

WHEN **GEORGE** TOLD ME THAT **TONY STARK** MADE THE **CUBE** A BETTER PRISON AND I COULDN'T REMEMBER SIGNING OFF ON IT, I KNEW TO EXPECT YOU.

I IMMEDIATELY CREATED A FIELD OF DATA PACKETS AROUND ME.

THE CLOSER TO ME YOU FLEW, THE MORE OF THOSE DATA PACKETS YOUR ARMOR DOWNLOADED, AND THE FASTER THOSE PACKETS ASSEMBLED IN YOUR COMPUTING SYSTEM AS A VIRUS OF MY DESIGN.

A VIRUS THAT HIJACKED THE LIFE SUPPORT IN YOUR ARMOR AND TURNED IT AGAINST YOU.

TONY STARK COULD FIGHT ALL HIS BATTLES REMOTELY IF HE WANTED TO. BUT HE LOVES TO GET HIS HANDS DIRTY.

IT'S OUR GREATEST STRENGTH. IT'S ALSO OUR BIGGEST WEAKNESS.

YOU DIED THE MOMENT YOU DECIDED TO COME HERE TO FIGHT ME.



WAIT, WHAT?!

DID WE...? SORRY, SCRATCH THAT.

DID YOU JUST SAY YOU KILLED **TONY STARK**?

I AM **TONY STARK**.

I AM **IRON MAN**.

I'M ALSO AN AVENGER, AGENT OF **S.H.I.E.L.D.**, GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY AND THE LIST GOES ON.



I'M CONSTANTLY EXPOSED TO DANGEROUS SITUATIONS. PROBABILITY DICTATES I'M DESTINED TO HAVE MY BUTT HANDED TO ME OCCASIONALLY. AND WHEN YOU'RE A LOWLY MORTAL HUMAN WHO WRESTLES WITH GODS AND TITANS, THAT MEANS YOU DIE...A LOT.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I HAVE A CONSCIOUSNESS-BACKUP SYSTEM THAT SWIFTLY UPLOADS MY CONSCIOUSNESS AND MEMORIES INTO A CLONE.

10% MEMORIES SYNCHRONIZED





MORE TIMES
THAN YOU WOULD
IMAGINE, THERE IS A GLITCH,
OR I SURVIVE WHAT SHOULD
HAVE KILLED ME, AND THE
WORLD IS LEFT WITH MULTIPLE
TONY STARKS. IN NORMAL
CIRCUMSTANCES, THE WORLD
JUST BECAME A
BETTER PLACE.

BUT I HAVE A
DIRECT LINE TO THE
PRESIDENT, I'M RESPECTED
BY THE U.N., I AM ONE OF
THE FEW INDIVIDUALS WITH THE
HIGHEST **S.H.I.E.L.D.** CLEARANCE
AND I HAVE ACCESS TO
THE MOST DANGEROUS
WEAPONS KNOWN TO
HUMANITY.



MULTIPLE **TONY STARKS** ARE A
SECURITY HAZARD WAITING TO HAPPEN
WHEN THERE ARE **SHAPE-SHIFTERS**,
AMONG MANY OTHER THREATS, OUT
THERE WHO CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF THE SITUATION.

SO WHEN A
TONY STARK
DISCOVERS THE GLITCH,
HE MUST HUNT DOWN
AND TERMINATE ALL
OTHER **TONY STARKS**.



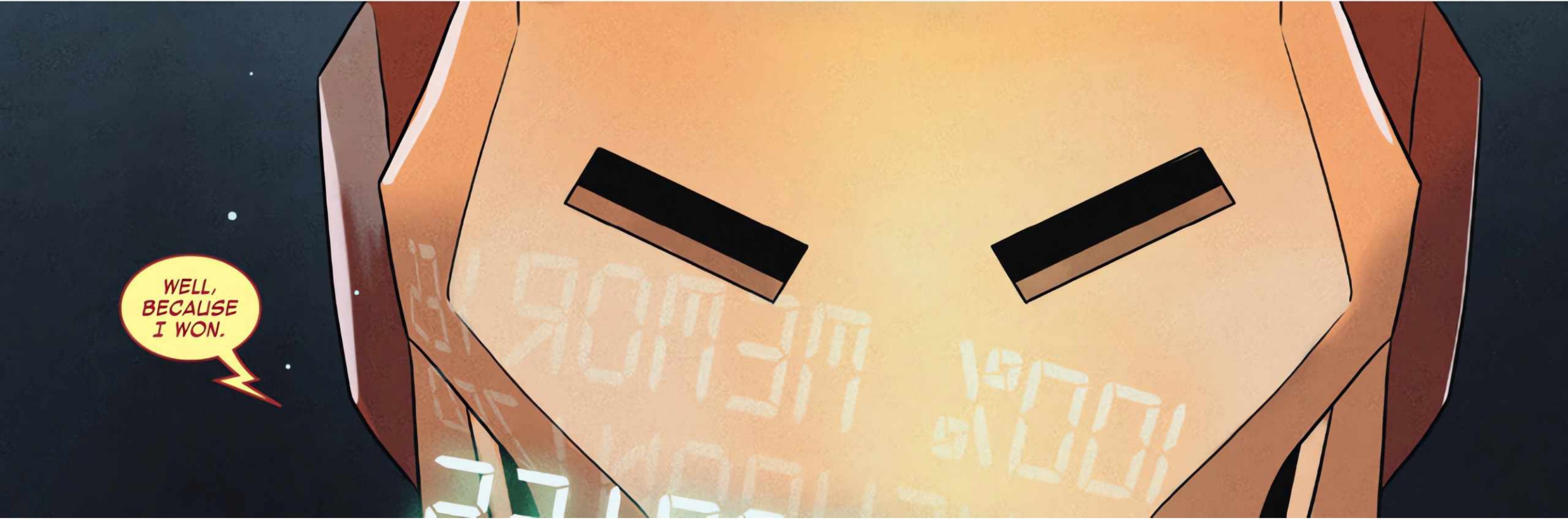
HOW DO
WE KNOW THAT'S
NOT THE **REAL TONY**
STARK LYING DEAD
IN THE RAIN?

I'M
THE **REAL**
ONE.



...

WHY
AM I SO
SURE?



WELL,
BECAUSE
I WON.

IF I HEAR
ONE MORE "HEAD"
JOKE WHEN I ASK YOU
TO GIVE ME THE
CAPSULES...

I SWEAR...

EARTH'S ORBIT.

THREE MONTHS LATER.

...YOU WERE
MORE BEARABLE
TO BE AROUND
WHEN YOU WERE
STILL TRYING TO
KILL ME.

THAT
EXPLAINS A
LOT ABOUT
YOUR DATING
HISTORY.

SAYS THE
PERSON WHO
ONCE DATED A GUY
WHO CALLED HIMSELF
"LIZARD LORD."

SHOULD WE BE
WORRIED ABOUT
WHERE S.H.I.E.L.D. IS
GETTING ALL THESE
HEADS FROM?

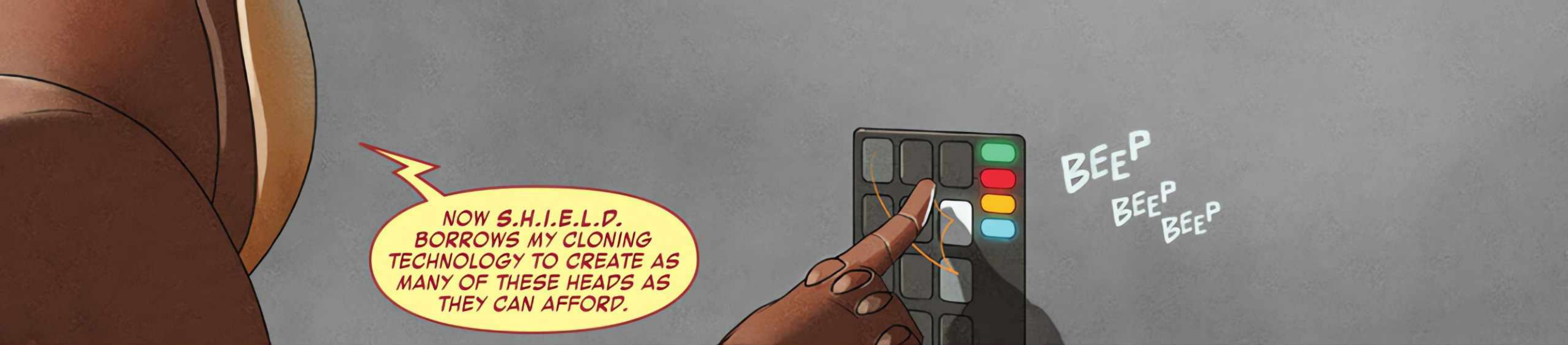
DEPENDS
ON YOUR
MILEAGE.

THE HEADS BELONG
TO A SPECIES OF MOSTLY
SOLITARY CREATURES IN
THE DRACO GALAXY THAT
LIVE EXTREMELY
LONG LIVES.

NOT ACCUSTOMED
TO DEATH AND GRIEF,
WHEN THEY LOSE A
LOVED ONE...

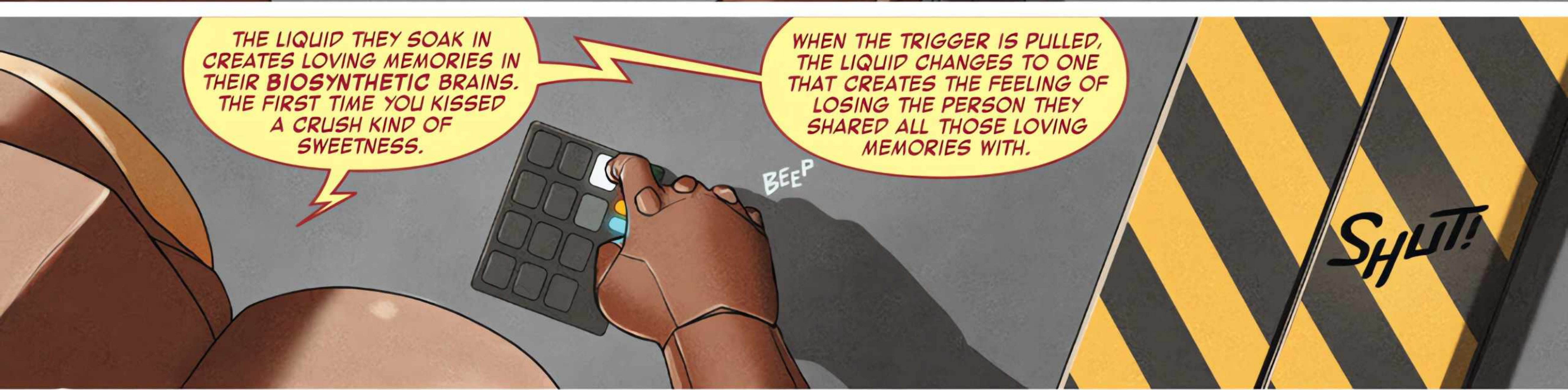
"...THEY RELEASE A
TEARY BELLOW
POWERFUL ENOUGH
TO LEVEL CITIES.

"S.H.I.E.L.D. USED
TO HUNT THEM TO
WEAPONIZE THAT
BELLOW."



NOW **S.H.I.E.L.D.** BORROWS MY CLONING TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE AS MANY OF THESE HEADS AS THEY CAN AFFORD.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

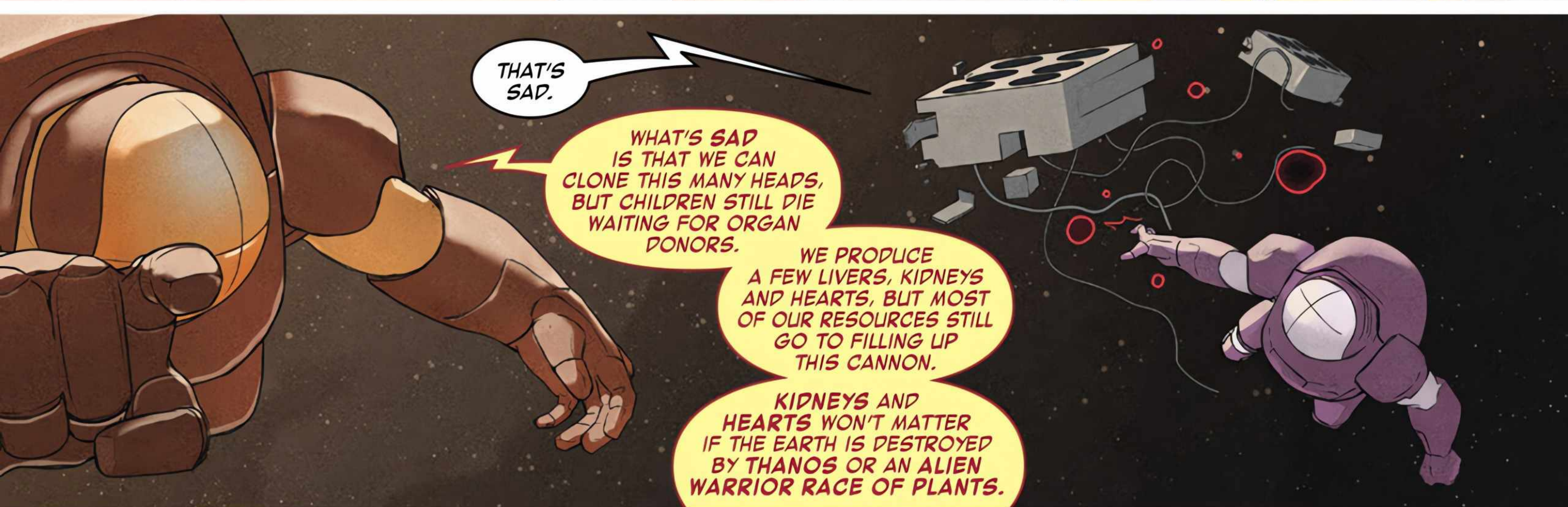


THE LIQUID THEY SOAK IN CREATES LOVING MEMORIES IN THEIR BIOSYNTHETIC BRAINS. THE FIRST TIME YOU KISSED A CRUSH KIND OF SWEETNESS.

WHEN THE TRIGGER IS PULLED, THE LIQUID CHANGES TO ONE THAT CREATES THE FEELING OF LOSING THE PERSON THEY SHARED ALL THOSE LOVING MEMORIES WITH.

BEEP

SHUT!

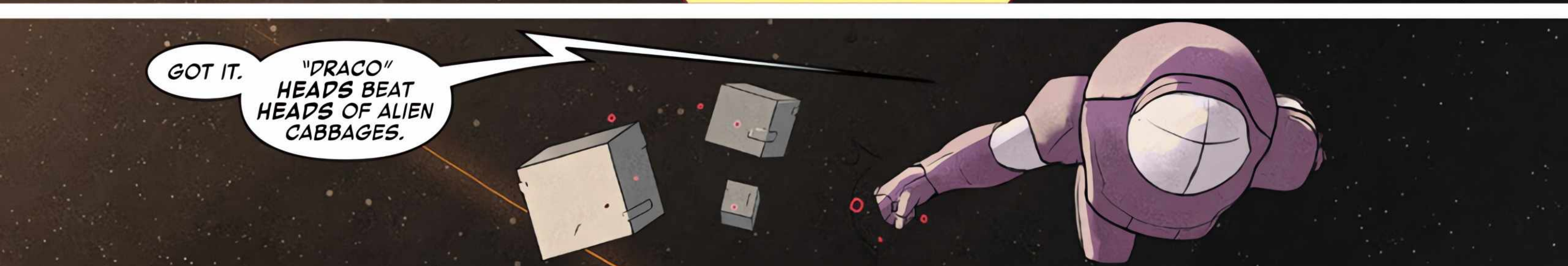


THAT'S SAD.

WHAT'S SAD IS THAT WE CAN CLONE THIS MANY HEADS, BUT CHILDREN STILL DIE WAITING FOR ORGAN DONORS.

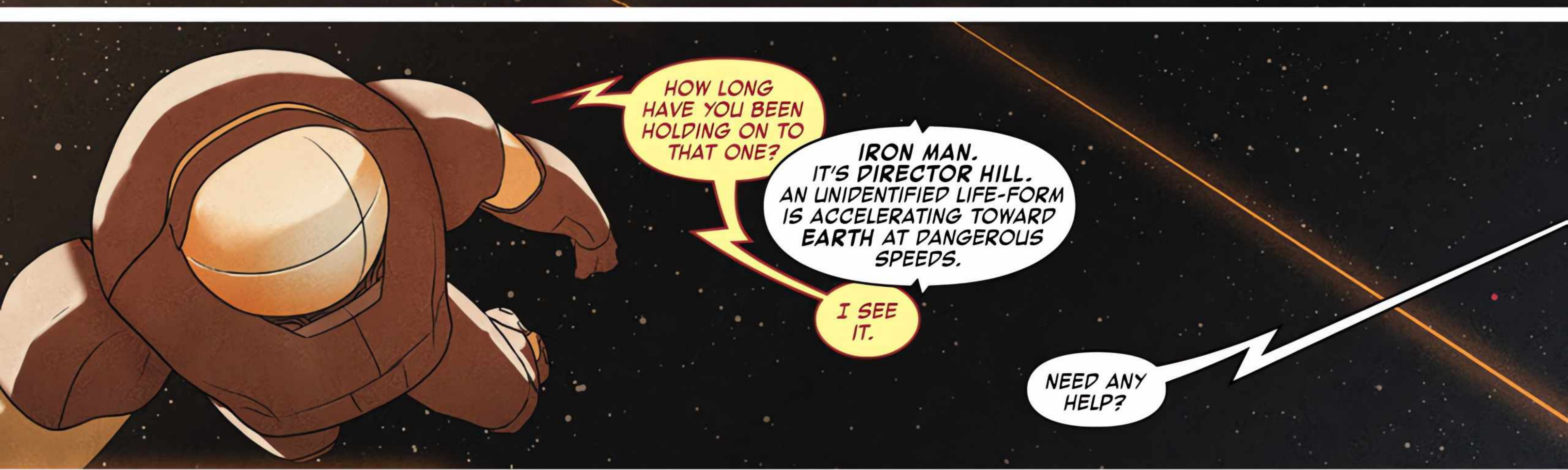
WE PRODUCE A FEW LIVERS, KIDNEYS AND HEARTS, BUT MOST OF OUR RESOURCES STILL GO TO FILLING UP THIS CANNON.

KIDNEYS AND HEARTS WON'T MATTER IF THE EARTH IS DESTROYED BY THANOS OR AN ALIEN WARRIOR RACE OF PLANTS.



GOT IT.

"DRACO" HEADS BEAT HEADS OF ALIEN CABBAGES.



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HOLDING ON TO THAT ONE?

IRON MAN. IT'S DIRECTOR HILL. AN UNIDENTIFIED LIFE-FORM IS ACCELERATING TOWARD EARTH AT DANGEROUS SPEEDS.

I SEE IT.

NEED ANY HELP?



NAH. YOU CAN FINISH UP HERE. AS FOR THAT SMALL FRY...

"...I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM IN NO TIME."

SUDAN.

NOW.

HILL.

IT'S DIRECTOR HILL.

SURE.

LISTEN, THERE IS A HUGE ALIEN SHIP IN RANGE TRANSMITTING ENCRYPTED DATA TOWARD SUDAN--

"ALIEN" SHIP?

DON'T KNOW WHAT THE, UH, MILITARY TERM (OR WHATEVER) FOR IT IS. BUT I'M NOT MISTAKEN. IT'S A GIANT SAUCER-SHAPED SPACESHIP.

WE DON'T HAVE VISUALS, DEOLA.

IT'S CLOAKED, BUT I CAN SENSE IT. THE SHIP IS ALSO SHIELDED, SO I CAN'T TAKE IT APART.

I DON'T LIKE THIS.

I'M LEAVING TO HELP TONY.

WHAT IS THAT, LIEUTENANT?

IT'S ONE OF THE VARIOUS BATTLE ARMORS OF THE ONE THEY CALL SPIDER-MAN, CAPTAIN.

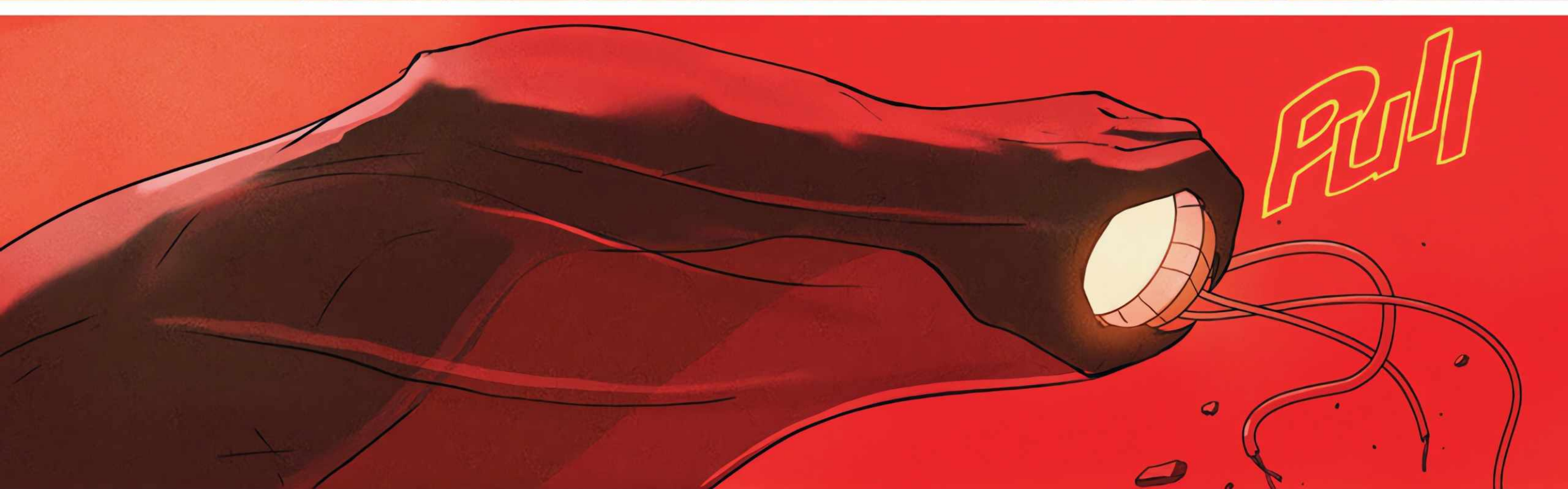
DO WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SPIDER-MAN TOO?

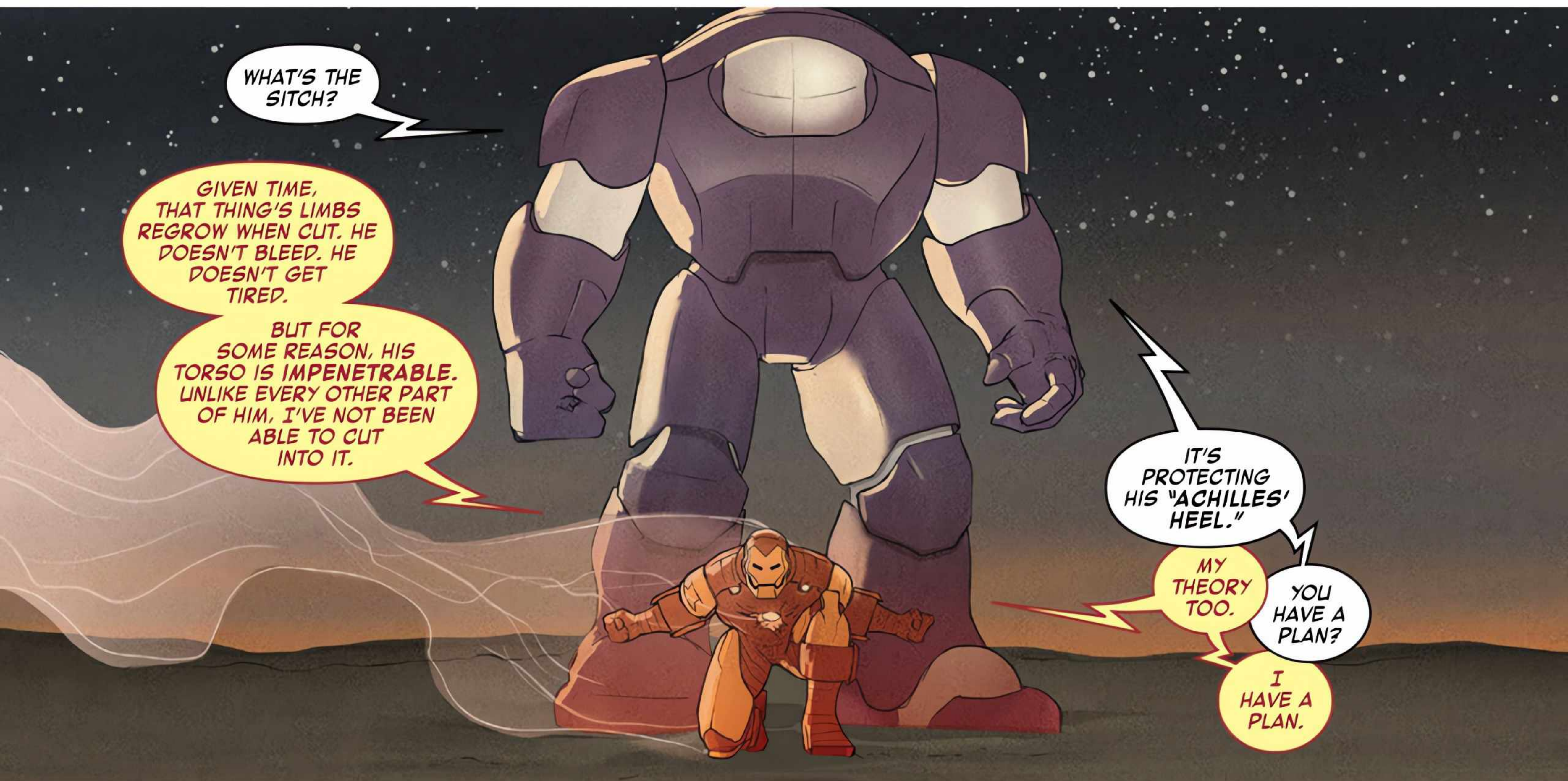
WE BROUGHT JUST THE ONE RIIGHA.

NO, CAPTAIN.

IRON MAN IS EARTH'S PROTECTOR. HE IS THE ONE TO DEFEAT.

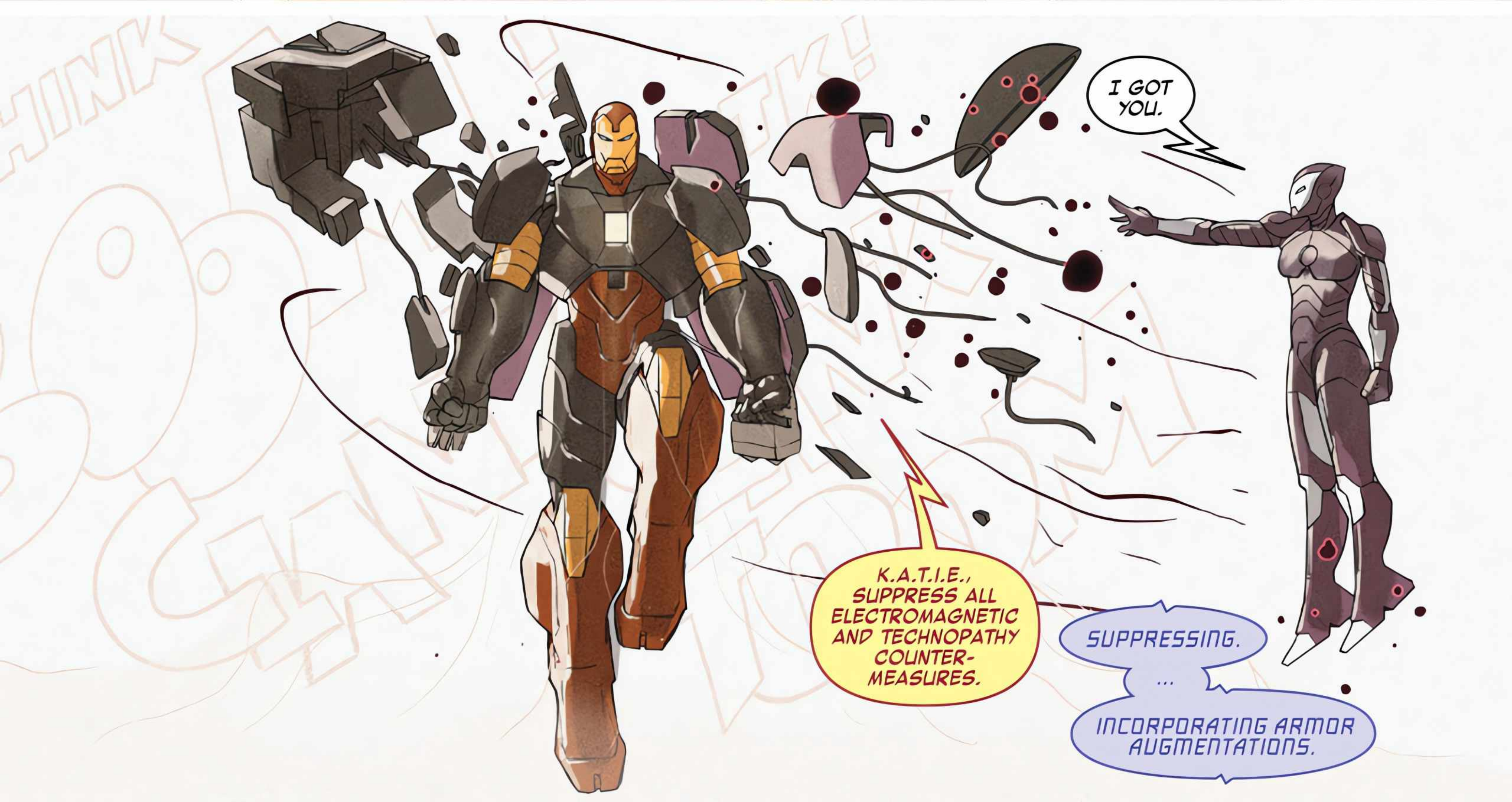
TONY. PLEASE BE OKAY.







I
NEED MORE
MASS.



I GOT
YOU.

K.A.T.I.E.,
SUPPRESS ALL
ELECTROMAGNETIC
AND TECHNOPATHY
COUNTER-
MEASURES.

SUPPRESSING.

...
INCORPORATING ARMOR
AUGMENTATIONS.



ARMOR
PRIMED AND
READY FOR
COMBAT.

YOUR
PRIMITIVE
TEC--



LIGK!

%BASTARDS!
YOU'LL#BOTH!DIE*
FOR/THIS.

YOU SHOULD
BE ABLE TO GET
INTO HIS TORSO
THROUGH THAT.

I FOUND
SOMETHING.

NOW,
GENTLY--

I
SQUISHED
IT.



000101 01100001 01101001
01000000 01100011 01101000
01001 01101000 00100000

SHOVE

I'LL BE FINE,
PEOLA.

I STILL
DON'T REMEMBER
FIXING THE CUBE.
THAT MEANS THERE'S
STILL ANOTHER ME
OUT THERE.



TONY.

DEOLA,
WE SAW
EVERYTHING.

PLEASE
STAY
CALM.



TONY!!!

DEOLA, STOP!
YOU DO NOT HAVE THE
CLEARANCE TO FIRE
THAT WEAPON.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AND
THE AVENGERS
ARE ON THEIR
WAY!

HIS
CONSCIOUSNESS-
BACKUP SYSTEM WAS DOWN.
THEY KILLED HIM, HILL.

SO DON'T
WASTE EVERYTHING
HE SACRIFICED TO GET
YOU OUT OF PRISON. HE
BELIEVED IN YOU, DEOLA.
DON'T GET YOURSELF
SENT BACK.



I'LL MAKE
THEM FEEL
MY PAIN.

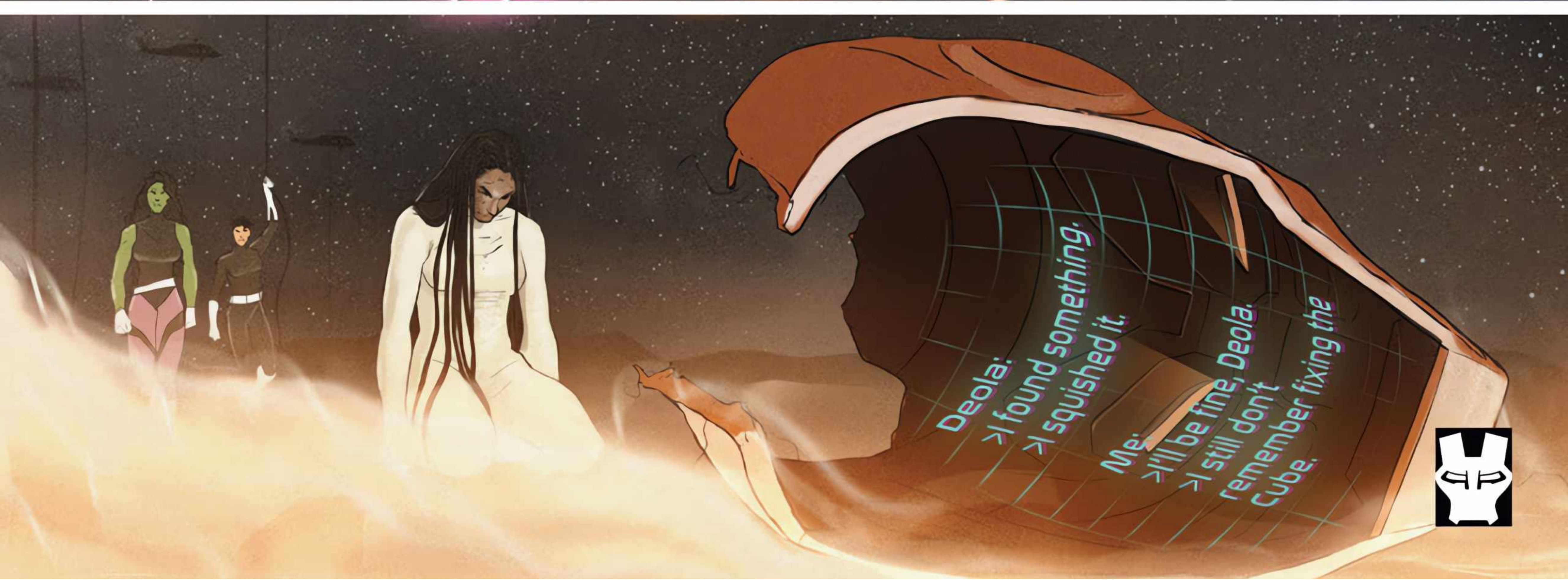


WHAT IS THAT,
LIEUTENANT?

IT APPEARS
TO BE A VESSEL,
CAPTAIN. WE
PICKED UP A LOT OF
BIOLOGICAL MATTER
FROM IT.

INSIDE, IT
LOOKS LIKE A
GIANT GUN TO ME,
LIEUTENANT.

OH. I
SEE THAT NOW,
CAPTAIN.



Deola:
>I found something.
>I squished it.

Me:
>I'll be fine, Deola.
>I still don't
remember fixing the
Cube.



I AM... IRON MAN

Thank you for sticking with us through this five-issue journey to celebrate the Golden Avenger. It was a privilege and a very special experience working on this series. Iron Man's sixty-year history is incredibly fascinating and entertaining. Telling stories inspired by this rich history was fun for us and a dream come true.

We are grateful to everyone who made this dream real for us—our editorial team, our publisher, comic retailers, reviewers, etc. However, we are most grateful to you, dear reader. Without you, none of us would be doing what we do.

For that reason, this issue is dedicated to you.

Cheers to more years of exciting stories of ol' Shell-Head. May his legend live forever.

**Much Love,
Murewa Ayodele & Dotun Akande**

Hello!

Today, I was reading my copy of I AM IRON MAN #3, and I noticed that you are once again looking for messages from readers, so here is another one from overseas.

Issue #3 of this limited series was certainly glorious. I loved the samurai themes, emotional approach and the focus being on Tony's mom, rather than (which is the usual take) on his father. Rhodey and his dry humor was an awesome addition too. It was also wonderful to see the artwork style changing when showing memories and when showing fights. Definitely a thoughtful idea! And if you welcome questions too, here is one regarding this

issue: Which came first for you when planning this issue? Samurai themes or mother-son focus?

**Best,
Anna K. from Poland**

Hello again, Anna.

We are so happy that you enjoyed I AM IRON MAN #3. Thank you so much for picking up a copy and for writing us about your reading experience with it. Your kind words are warmly felt.

We never got to spend much time with Spider-Man's Uncle Ben in the pages of Marvel Comics. Yet his influence echoes in our souls till this very day because we know everything Spider-Man does is because of that man. Through Spider-Man's actions, we know what type of a man Uncle Ben must have been more than any flashback can show us.

We think every story about Howard Stark and his complicated relationship with Tony Stark highlights how much work Maria Stark must have done to make sure Tony becomes the Iron Man that we love today. So, maybe, every Iron Man story is an indirect Maria Stark story.

As for how we got the story idea for I AM IRON MAN #3, Dotun and I are big fans of Genndy Tartakovsky and his cartoon series *Samurai Jack*. So we've always wanted to create a samurai-themed Iron Man story, but the inclusion of Maria Stark is what made it a story worth telling.

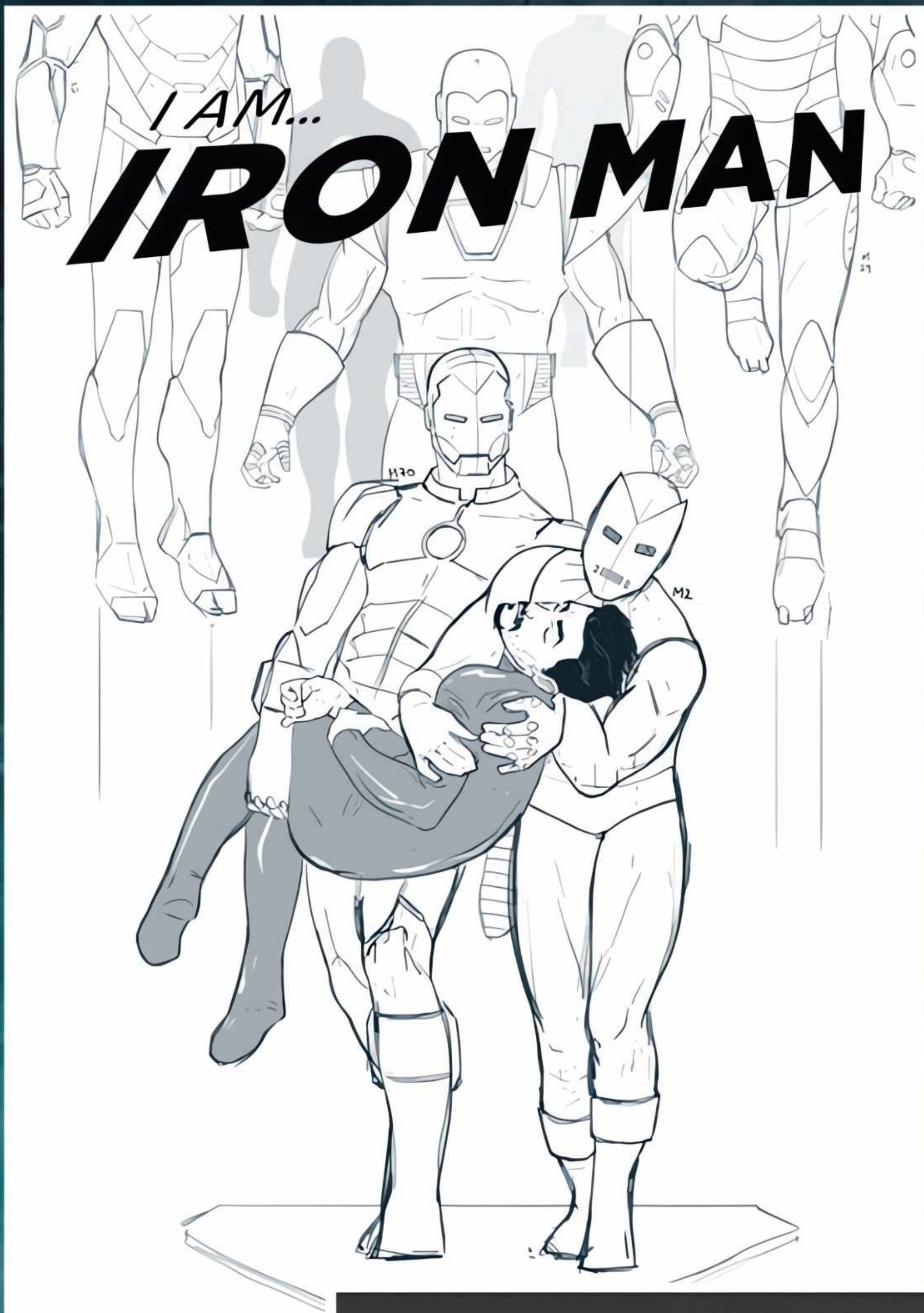
**Much Love,
Murewa Ayodele & Dotun Akande**

**EMAIL US AT [MHEROES@MARVEL.COM](mailto:mheroes@marvel.com) AND
MARK YOUR MESSAGES "OKAY TO PRINT" FOR A
CHANCE TO SEE THEM ANSWERED IN FUTURE ISSUES!**

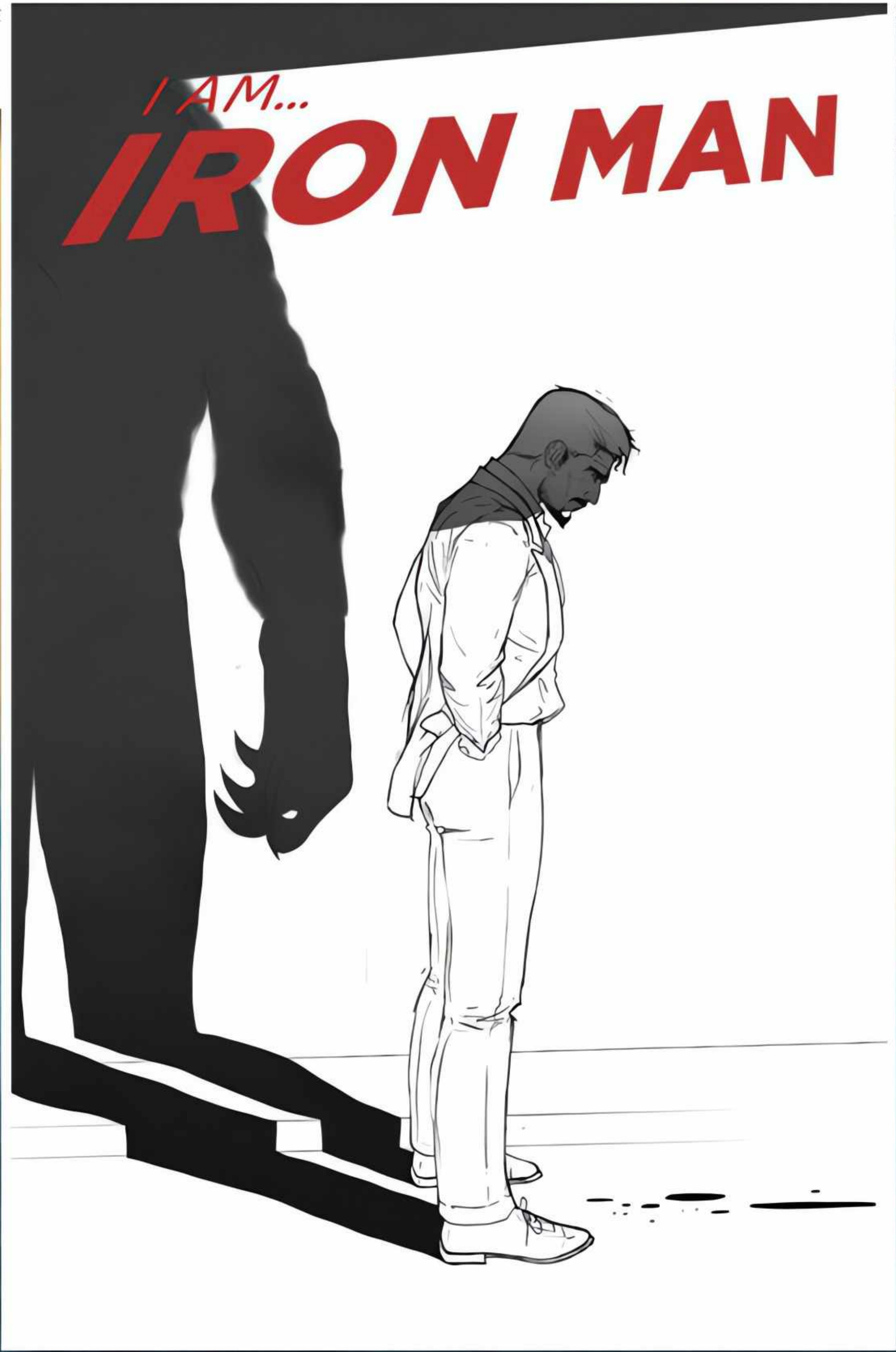


We wanted to share some cover concepts by Dotun Akande for the series that didn't make the cut.

#1



#3



#4